Thursday, May 7, 2009 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 148 P18

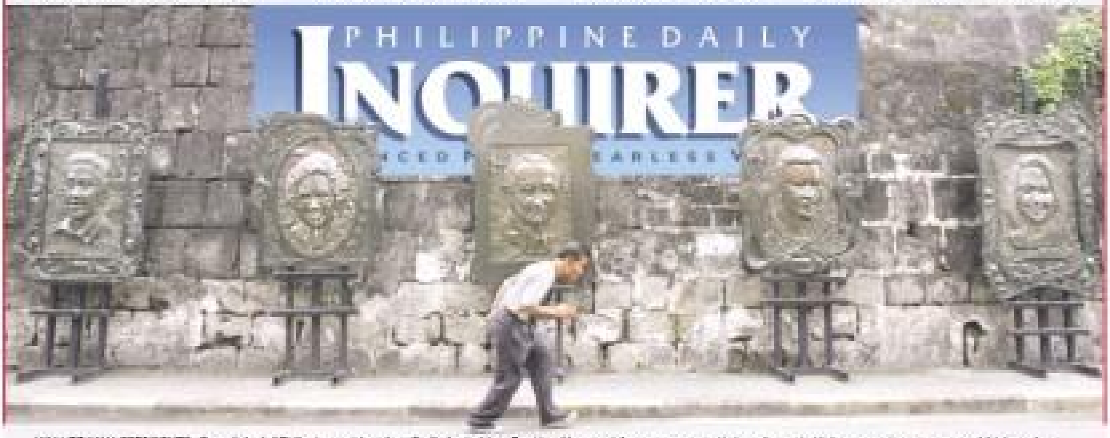
Senate uncovers three more preneed firms with deficient funds NEWS / A2

Six of seven bidders for poll automation disqualified NEWS / A8

Jesus Martinez, ex-SEC exec in Legacy mess, dies NEWS / A2

Ryan Cayabyab warned Martin not to mess with National Anthem NEWS / A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



WALL TO WALL PRESIDENTS Bas-reliefs of all Philippine presidents from Emilio Aguinaldo to President Macapagal-Arroyo are mounted in brass frames inside Intramuros in a permanent exhibit by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao called Galeria de los Presidentes de la Republica Filipina. From left to right are the faces of Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Ms Arroyo.

Pacman told to stay in LA

'Why ask us to help in ₱25-M fund, GMA has billions in pork'

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS barking up the wrong tree in asking lawmakers to help put up a ₱25-million fund intended to put an end to political killings, senators said yesterday.

"She has billions in pork barrel funds," Sen. Loren Legarda told Inquirer editors and reporters on Tuesday night, pointing out that Ms Arroyo had a ready source of funds to finance her planned reward system for informants.

"Most are lump sum amounts," Legarda said, adding that the 2009 General Appropriations Act included a ₱300-billion stimulus fund supposedly meant as a buffer fund to cushion the impact of the global recession.

Elaborating on her remarks in an interview yesterday, Legarda questioned the use of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) for other purposes.

To the President's invitation to lawmakers to contribute to the fund ₱200,000 each from their pork barrel, Legarda said: "That wouldn't that be a misappropriation of the PDAF?"

WHY ASK US A4



WELCOME HOME First Gentleman Mike Arroyo welcomes home his wife President Macapagal-Arroyo upon her arrival early Wednesday morning aboard a chartered PAL flight from a five-day trip to Egypt and Syria. Mr. Arroyo appears to be sporting a flattering new do with hair pushed away from the face secured in place by a headband.

Palace resets Pacquiao Day to May 11 on WHO advice

By Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

A SUGGESTION THAT MANNY PACQUIAO GO ON A self-imposed quarantine in the face of a swine flu epidemic in the United States and Mexico has sparked a battle royal in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday urged the boxing icon to put off his triumphal return on Friday from his conquest of Ricky Hatton, purportedly at the behest of the World Health Organization (WHO) to help prevent the spread of the disease from the United States.

"It is better to be conservative," said Duque, who requested the WHO for advice on what to do with Pacquiao and the millions of his adoring Filipino fans likely to greet him.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza didn't quite agree with Duque, calling his suggestion nothing but "unjustified anxiety" and a "cruel joke."

"There is no reason why we should subject Manny to a treatment like that when planeloads of Filipinos pass through the airport and are not subject to the same treatment," Atienza argued.

Atienza said the normal "screening" of disembarking passengers should be enough, adding that he went through the same procedure on his arrival yesterday.

He also said the motorcade for Pacquiao would push through on Friday afternoon, rain or shine.

"We can't deprive the people the satisfaction of greeting Manny," he said.

"I told him that he can't prevent Manny from coming home," Atienza

PACMAN A4

Cory takes 1st steps, says 4 rosaries; all set to go home

By Fe Zamora

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER UNDERgoing colon surgery, former President Corazon Aquino took her first steps, had her first soft meal and resumed reciting her usual four rosaries, according to her youngest child.

"She's really an ideal patient," the actress and TV host Kris Aquino said of her mother by telephone yesterday. "She has a very positive aura."

But Aquino's stubborn streak has also made itself felt.

Kris, who has been assigned the family spokesperson in the matter of the former President's health, quoted doctors as saying that her mother "can go home on Thursday or Friday if she can walk a good distance of the corridor."

"But she has already sent a text message to my sister that she wants to go home on Thursday," Kris added with a laugh.

Aquino, 76, underwent an operation

CORY A4

BAD TIMES FOR GRAND DAME

Taipan says loans were concealed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LAWYERS OF EMILIO YAP CLAIM THE business tycoon got the short end of the stick in the deal that gave him ownership of Manila Hotel Corp.

They cite a "confidential information memorandum" issued to the bidders.

"As of April 30, 1995, there are no unrecorded liabilities or other contingent liabilities which will have adverse material effect on its financial position and results of operations. Accordingly, the strategic partner will not be held answerable for any such unrecorded liability or other contingent liability prior to their declaration as the winning bidder."

In a statement yesterday, former Sen. Jose D. Lina Jr., president of Manila Hotel, said that Yap should not be made answerable for loans extended by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) during the interim period from April 30, 1995, to

TAIPAN A4

i-TEAM Report

Fernando del Mundo, Chief

GSIS boss avoids double whammy: Fat filing fee ...

By Michael Lim Ubac

IF WINSTON GARCIA IS A BIT GUNshy these days, it is to avoid a double whammy.

The president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) says he wants to go to

GSIS BOSS A4

Lozada may be moved to PNP hospital

By Tina G. Santos

CITING SECURITY REASONS, THE Manila Police District (MPD) yesterday said it would transfer whistle-blower Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada Jr. from Medical Center Manila (MCM) to the Philippine National Police hospital in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

But the nuns who have been guarding Lozada at the MPD headquarters since his arrest on April 29 are not convinced that he should be moved.

Lozada, accompanied by the nuns, was taken on Tuesday night to MCM, a stone's throw away from the police station. He was observed to be dehydrated and having difficulty breathing.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, the MPD acting director, yesterday sent government doctor Eric Tiongson to assess Lozada's condition, according to Sr. Mary John Mananzan, cochair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP).

"The doctor said Jun should be transferred to Camp Crame because the hospital there has the medical equipment and facilities he needs. She said Jun can be treated there," Mananzan told the Inquirer.

She added: "As far as we're concerned, we would like Jun to stay here in MCM. We're even willing to pay for his hospital bills. But if they will insist, we

LOZADA A4



Briton wins 'best job in the world'

SYDNEY—A BUNGEE-JUMPING, ostrich-riding British charity worker on Wednesday was named the winner of what's been dubbed the "best job in the world"—a six-month contract to serve as caretaker of a tropical Australian island.

Ben Southall, 34, beat out nearly 35,000 applicants from around the world for the dream

BRITON A4

Texan is first American to die of A(H1N1) flu

McALLEN, TEXAS—TEXAS HEALTH officials on Tuesday announced the first death of a US resident with swine flu, saying she was a 33-year-old schoolteacher who had recently given birth to a healthy baby.

The woman died early Tuesday and had been hospitalized since April 19, said Leonel Lopez, Cameron County epidemiologist.

Lopez said the flu exacerbated the woman's condition. "The swine flu is very benign by itself," Lopez said. But "by the time she came to see us it was already too late."

The teacher was from Harlingen, a city of about 60,000 near the US-Mexico border, and she worked in the Mercedes Independent School District,

TEXAN A4

Second FRONT PAGE



EZ2: 23 28 20 23
SUERTRES: 0 9 9 / 5 0 9 / 3 9 4
FOUR DIGIT: 5 1 5 1
MEGALOTTO 6/45: 9 29 30 41 44 45
P9,554,544.00

3 more preneed firms watched

Remedial measure

Transferred

SEC commissioner in Legacy mess dies



MARTINEZ

Under investigation

'Expeditions'

Danding's well; son shrugs off nasty rumors



14 killed in plantation raid; MILF says it wasn't sanctioned

Ancestral domain issues

MILF explains raid

Gen. Ibrado responds

Laguna solon asks SC to nullify ouster

LAGUNA REP. DANILO Fernandez has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the decision of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal ordering him to vacate his congressional post for lack of the required residency in his district.

"The HRET found that Fernandez lacked the necessary residency in his district and ordered that he vacate his position on Dec. 16, 2008. The HRET denied his motion for reconsideration on April 30, 2009.

Fernandez in his petition for certiorari against his expulsion, argued that issues on his residency have already gone through the administrative and judicial processes of the Commission on Elections.

"Respondent's registration had been filed before the (Election Registration Board) without any challenge thereto, hence the same was approved, and the respondent's name was included in the certified list of voters for Sta. Rosa," read Fernandez's petition.

"And if indeed (petitioner) Fernandez does not deserve to be a candidate in Sta. Rosa, it cannot that he should not likewise be a registered voter of the said city," it added.

Fernandez's petition also said that even a petition for his exclusion from the list of voters has not been filed.

"Up to now, herein petitioner remains a registered voter in Sta. Rosa City," Fernandez said. *Norman Bordadora*



SAMSUNG'S NEW TV Samsung Electronics launched its first full line of LED Full HD television sets, and unveiled a comprehensive range of AV audio-visual products designed to deliver richer and more exciting digital experiences at the Samsung 2009 AV Roadshow: LED—A Whole New Species of Television. In the photo are (L-R): Samsung corporate marketing head [illegible], CE sales head Antonio Mauricio, CEO and President Spencer Shin, vice president CE department Jay Ko, and product marketing group head Andy Navarro.

Pacman told to stay in LA; celebration on May 11

'This is no joke'

Pacquiao to consult advisers

Proper social distancing

DOH sought WHO advice

Texas woman is first American to die of A(H1N1) flu

Mexicans head home

Lot of confidence

Public's wealth

Travel restrictions

Set for release

Briton wins 'best job in the world'

Lozada may be moved to PNP hospital

Protection

'Plus-Plus' for Lozada

Arraignment today

Defensor's call

Disagree with judge

Cory takes first steps, says four rosaries

RP math wizard, 14, aces Canadian math competition

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A 14-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT of the Chiang Kai Shek College (CKSC) in Manila got a perfect score while 238 other young Filipinos were among the top scorers in a correspondence-based Canadian Mathematics Competition (CMC).

Henry Jefferson Morco, an incoming CKSC high school sophomore, scored 100 percent in the 10th Grade or Cayley division of the contest, making him the recipient of the much coveted CMC 2009 medal.

The other Filipino top scorers, who made it to the "top 25 percent" of this year's CMC, received certificates of distinction, according to the Mathematics Trainers Guild-Philippines (MTG).

More than 70,000 students took the part in the annual contest, organized by the Center for Education in Mathematics and Computing, which is based at the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

The MTG administered the annual contest here in behalf of the CMC early this year.

Near perfect

John Russell Hinks, 15, and an incoming senior student of the Grace Academy in Pasig City, was "just a few points away from obtaining a perfect score" and also will receive the medal in the Fermat or Grade 11 division.

Hinks, one of the country's representatives and medal winners during last year's Thailand Math Competition in Chiang Mai, was also among the top scorers in the Euclid or Grade 12 division.

The other Euclid top scorers were Angeline Barsaga of St. Paul College-Pasig, Zheng Rong Wu and Fiori Ryan Bello of the Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Mikki Reyes and Matthew Ng of Chiang Kai Shek College, and Clareen Antoinette Lao of St. Jude Catholic School.

Another medalist is Austin Chua, incoming Grade 8 student of the St. Jude Catholic School, who topped the Pascal or Grade 9 level. Ninety others "performed very well" in the same division, according to Dr. Simon Chua, president of the Mathematics Trainers Guild Philippines (MTG).

The MTG is currently training hundreds of elementary and high school students nationwide who will compete in several international math contests this year, including those to be hosted by the group's counterparts in China, Hong Kong and the United States.

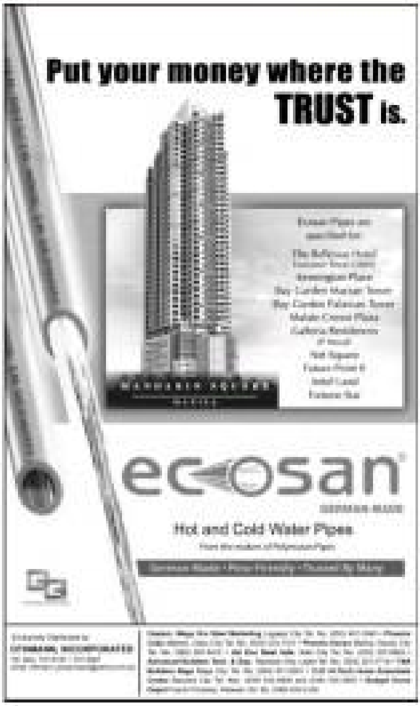
Other top scorers

Filipino top scorers in the Pascal or Grade 9 division of the CMC included Adrienne Arden of Jose Rizal University Elementary School, Lorenzo Baguinon of Juan J. Elementary School, Justine Sherar of Makati Science High School, Gabe Chua of Pangasinan Universal Institute, Clarissa Lee of St. Jude Catholic School, Dominic Pichareo of Premiere International School-Davao, High Kent Olegario of Camiling Central Elementary School, Pascal Delima of Colegio San Agustin, David Sy of Philippine Institute, and Gyn Mark Tomas of Stockville International School, among others.

Their counterparts in the Cayley division were Arvin Alba of Philippine Science High School, Aloysius Alipio of Jesus is Lord Colleges Foundation, Charles Antonio of Pasig Catholic College, Andrea Panaro of San Pedro Poveda College, John Balmeo of Ateneo de Naga University High School, Leeds Harold Oqueno of Olongapo City National High School, Paul Co of Xavier Living Faith Academy, Albert Co of Uno High School, Sol Fidelson of Bethany Christian School, and Patrick Lacuna of Leyte National High School, among others.

Other top scorers in the Fermat contest included Angeline Barsaga of St. Paul College-Pasig, Hans Gibrano of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School, Anna Mei Chua of Philippine Science High School-Diliman, Darryl Diaz of Manila Science High School, Lance Mazzarillas of MEE-EY Integrated Development School, Hazel Joy Go of Philippine Cultural College, Joshua Tan of Xavier School, Renato Yabes of Tagaytay Science High School, Matthew Chua of St. Stephen's High School, and Hans Zhang of Grace Christian College, among others. (A complete list of those who did very well in the competition is posted on www.mtg-phil.org)







The Daily Gospel

Thursday, May 7, 2009
4th Week of Easter

[illegible]



Separate ₱21-M reward for killers of leftists, journalists

Sison on Facebook

'Wanted' posters

'Why ask us to help in ₱25-M fund'



Passing buck to Congress

Helplessness

Palparan willing

Lim's share

Not only for reward

Taipan says loans were concealed

Not a centavo borrowed

Bidders not told of loans

Let the buyer beware

High hopes, big losses

Former Mirador hotel

GSIS boss avoids ...

Scandalous fee

Traumatic experience

Transparency in lending

Recto got it all wrong, 2 big oil firms say

Weekly basis

Crude basis



SAFE AT HOME

Traders lured by easing of visa rules, says BI

It's too early to say goodbye to summer

6 of 7 poll automation bidders disqualified

Worried about bidding

Excluded by panel

There's still time to appeal

Back to manual counting?

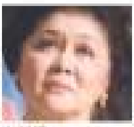
Nat'l hymn test case to be filed; Ryan says he warned Martin

NEW PROBE COMPLETED

Raps in lamppost overprice to be refiled

Marcos widow, daughter block seizure of $35M

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



MARCOS



ARANETA

PCGG going after Texas property of Marcos crony

Sultan Kudarat mayor detained at Sandigan

Voluntary surrender

INQUIRER

OPINION

Pacman's political agenda

EDITORIAL



Bum check

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Not quite Ali yet

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Pacquiao has precedent in new Detroit mayor

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Highwaymen

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

While Jun Lozada was being arrested

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

If the shoe fits

YOUNG BLOOD

Joanna Nicole C. Batac

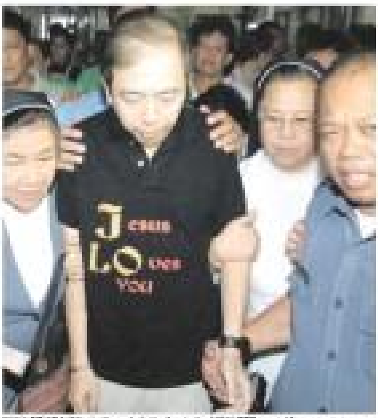
The ugliest thing

Sarah Liliana E. Sarmiento

The world's real People's Champ

LETTERS

Kaya Natin expresses support for Lozada



American explains why 'there has to be hope' for the Philippines



Police brutality starts in training

Pray for Abu Sayyaf members' wives too

Across the NATION

Door shut to E. Visayas tuition hike

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUcation (DepEd) in Eastern Visayas has shut the doors to any petition for tuition increase from private secondary schools in the region this school year.

P4,000 a month pay

Firms hiring workers again is good sign, says DOLE chief



Aetas' ancestral domain bid on ex-US base land moves on

Probe of chef's death in Fontana enters 5th month

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Farmer helps sustain Laguna agriculture

By Marice Cinco
Sta. Cruz, Laguna

ADJUDGED AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING livestock farmer in Laguna for 2009 in the yearly search of the Department of Agriculture, [illegible] has helped keep agriculture alive amid rapid urbanization.

[illegible]



Motorbikers group urges crime prevention

By Marice Cinco
Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna

ABOUT 1,000 MOTORCYCLE RIDERS TOOK off early May 1 from various points in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon (Calabarzon) and Manila to campaign for safety and prevention of motorcycle-related crimes.

[illegible]



MOTORCYCLE riders from Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Manila promoting safety and motorcycle crime prevention prepare for a motorcade at the Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna.

IN THE KNOW

[illegible]

SPORTS

Juntaphil tennis: Suarez stuns Atienza

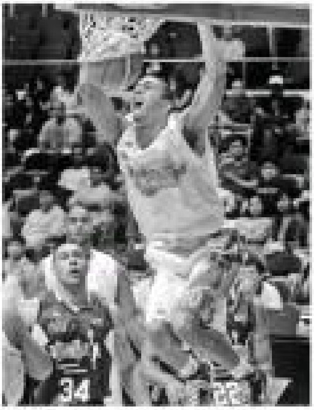
Derby champ known today

No more than 147, declares Pacquiao

By Roy Luarca

Key V-League tiff for Ateneo, St. Benilde

Painters nip Texters in OT



FilOil: Warriors rout Blazers

NCAA formally accepts new schools—and their players

Big heart behind big win

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

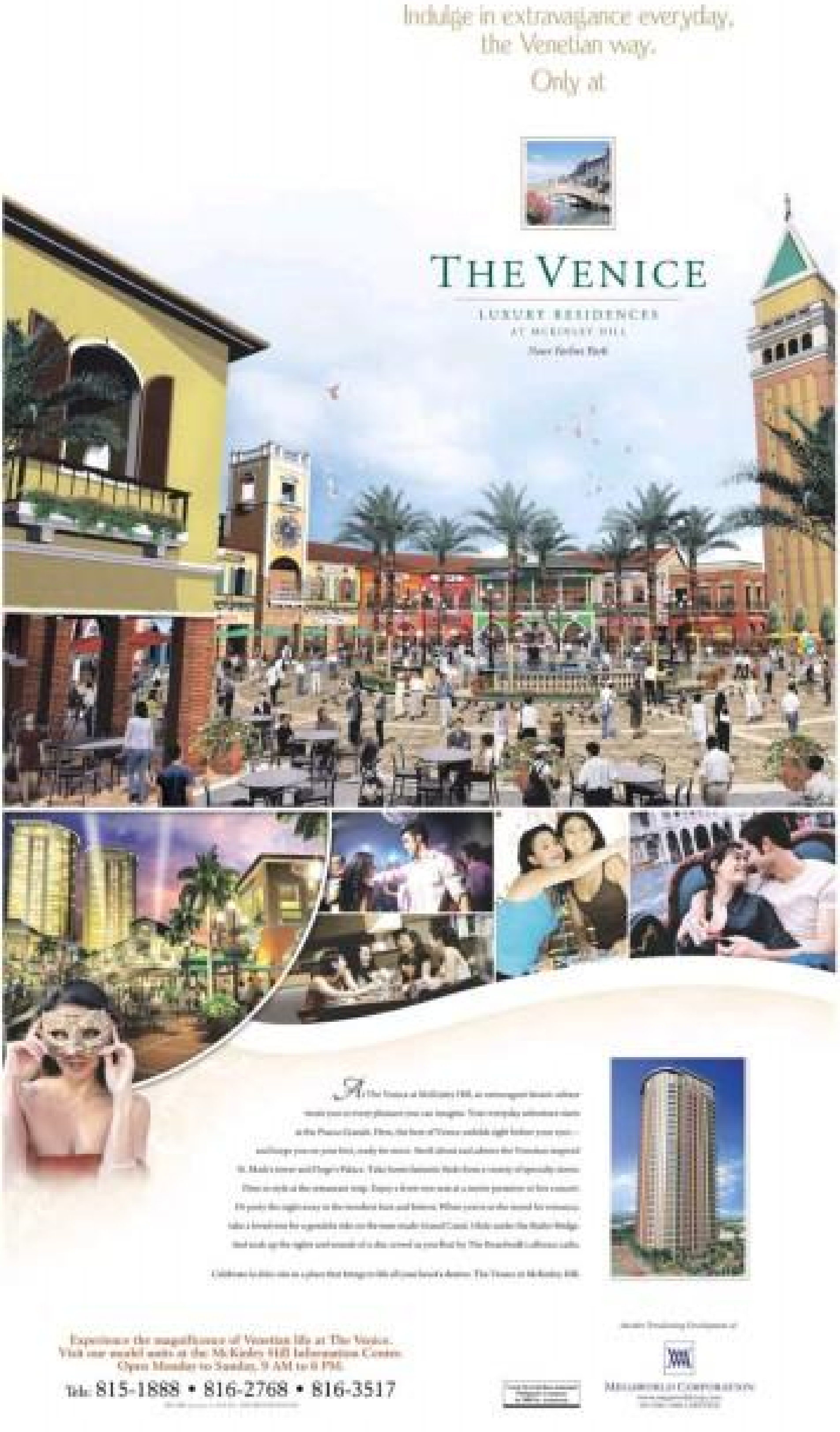


Badminton, cycling polls slated May 9

'RP 5 can't play it easy'

Licealiz, Pharex eye semis

Nestea Fit Beach Volleyball finals gets going in Boracay today


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A plus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW



GMA opens elevated U-turns on C5 Road /A18



A FIREMAN trains his hose on the third floor of the Quezon City Hall Annex building which caught fire yesterday.

Fire hits QC Hall, destroys records

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AN HOUR-LONG FIRE HIT THE annex building of the Quezon City Hall yesterday morning, destroying hundreds of government accounting records and forcing operations in all departments to grind to a halt.

Senior Supt. Bobby Baruelo, the city fire marshal, said the blaze, which broke out at around 8:15 a.m., started at the ceiling of the accounting office which is located on the top floor of the newly-rehabilitated three-story building behind city hall.

Baruelo said that no government official or employee was reported killed or hurt although four firemen suffered minor injuries.

Electricity was shut off at the main building during the fire, prompting Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. to call a halt to operations in all offices.

Asked if he thought there was foul play in the incident, Belmonte said, "I don't think so. It's a good thing this happened in the morning when all people were awake, instead of at night."

He assured the public that despite the damage caused by the fire, government services would not be disrupted as only the accounting office and a portion of the assessors and tax departments were affected.

He said he expected things to be back to normal at city hall today.

The mayor, meanwhile, estimated the damage caused by the fire to reach at least P10 million.

He expressed confidence that the accounting and tax records damaged in the fire would eventually be recovered. "These records can be reconstituted because we have a backup database in our information technology unit located in the main building."

Court proceedings and operations were also suspended at the Hall of Justice located beside the main building.

A cancellation notice of the day's operations was posted at the entrance to the hall as ordered by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Ofelia Marquez.

"Court proceedings were stopped and the

FIRE /A18



Judge inspects controversial sanitary landfill

GPS locators

Fire hits QC Hall

Jun Lozada, the actor

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

GMA opens elevated U-turn slots on C5 Road

By Marlon Ramos



2 cops probed over shooting incident

MetroBriefs

Angry over Failon ruling

Makati parade suspended

Seminar on Math problems set

Hearing on Geisler case moved

Barefoot doctors' summit

Maoists vow to step up protests



Clan feud led to deadly attack in Turkey

UN seeks payment for strikes in Gaza

WorldBriefs

11 dead in Baghdad bombing

Homeless dies with $100,000 in account

Malaysian activist arrested for sedition

Prince Charles takes fight to MySpace

Former McDonald's director jailed in HK

Comedian Dom DeLuise dies at 75

1st US double hand transplant

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ziganay



THIS undated photo made available by the University of Warwick shows a Formula 3 racing car—the WorldFirst Formula 3 racing car—which is powered by chocolate, has a steering wheel made out of plant-based fibers derived from carrots, has bodywork made from potatoes, and can still do 135mph. AP

Scientists unveil chocolate-fueled race car

LONDON—SCIENTISTS UNveiled on Tuesday what they hope will be one of the world's fastest biofuel vehicles, powered by waste from chocolate factories and made partly from plant fibers.

Its makers hope the racer will go 145 miles per hour and give manufacturers ideas about how to build more ecologically friendly vehicles.

The car runs on vegetable oils and chocolate waste that has been turned into biofuel. The steering wheel is made out of plant-based fibers derived from carrots and other root vegetables, and the seat is built of flax fiber and soybean oil foam. The body is also made of plant fibers.

Scientists at the University of Warwick say their car is the fastest to run on biofuels and also be made from biodegradable materials. It has been built to Formula 3 specifications down the car's size, weight and performance.

Their claims cannot be independently verified. AP

Thousands flee fighting in Pakistan Swat valley

PESHAWAR—MORE THAN 40,000 CIVILIANS have fled deadly clashes in Pakistan's Swat valley, officials said on Wednesday, amid fears that fighting between Taliban and security forces will torpedo a peace deal.

The chaos forced President Asif Ali Zardari onto the defensive—he brushed aside United States concerns that Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are threatening Pakistan's very existence just hours before a summit with US counterpart Barack Obama.

Deadly clashes flared again overnight in Mingora, the main town in Swat—the once-idyllic resort where local officials said armed Taliban have defied curfews and occupied government buildings, making a mockery of the peace deal.

The provincial government said it was scrambling to shelter up to 500,000 people they expect to flee Swat and local officials charged tens of thousands streamed out of the district in less than 24 hours.

"More than 40,000 have migrated from Mingora since Tuesday afternoon," said Khushhal Khan, the chief administration officer in Swat.

"An exodus of more than 40,000 people is the minimum number—it should actually be more than 50,000," said an intelligence official.

Bedraggled men, women in burkas and children piled onto pick-up trucks and led animals through streets in their haste to flee Swat, devastated by a nearly two-year Taliban insurgency to impose sharia law.

"I don't want my unborn baby to hear even the slightest idea what suicide attacks and bomb blasts are. That's why I'm leaving Mingora with my husband," said a sobbing and heavily pregnant Nabila Gohar.

"No God's [illegible] I can bring up my child where there are no suicide attacks," she cried.

Although a three-month peace accord appeared to be over, spokespersons for the government and the pro-Taliban cleric who signed the deal, Sufi Muhammad, insisted it remained intact. AFP



LOCAL residents prepare to board a vehicle to flee fighting from the area in Mingora, the main of town of Pakistan Swat Valley, on Tuesday. AP

UN calls on Sri Lanka to suspend offensive against Tamil rebels

COLOMBO—UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has urged Sri Lanka to stop using heavy weapons that risk civilian lives and to suspend its offensive against ethnic Tamil rebels so that desperately needed aid can be sent to the war zone.

Ban spoke to President Mahinda Rajapaksa on the telephone on Tuesday night amid heavy international pressure for a humanitarian ceasefire in the conflict. Rajapaksa has brushed off such calls, saying a truce would give the rebels a chance to regroup.

The government has cornered the remaining rebel fighters—along with tens of thousands of civilians—in a narrow coastal strip in the north and stands on the brink of victory after a nearly quarter-century civil war.

Speaking to reporters in New York, Ban said he asked Rajapaksa for "a humanitarian pause to the fighting" to allow aid into the conflict zone and urged the government to stop using heavy weapons in areas heavily populated by civilians.

"I repeat: Protecting civilians and respecting international humanitarian law must be priority one. The world is watching events closely including for violations of international law," he said.

The government pledged last week to stop using artillery fire and air strikes, but health officials in the war zone say such attacks have continued.

Ban also said the Tamil Tigers should let the estimated 50,000 civilians trapped by the fighting out of the war zone and to stop forcibly recruiting fighters from their ranks.

"Above all, there is an urgent need for the two sides to bring the conflict to a peaceful and orderly end," he said.

The appeal came as a British parliamentary delegation finished a two-day tour of the country and a Canadian Cabinet minister also visited. Last week the British and French foreign ministers traveled here to personally press for a humanitarian truce.

The current fighting since the end of January has killed about 6,500 civilians, according to a UN document compiled last month. Hundreds of more civilians have been reported killed since then. AP

Amazon floods leave 186K homeless

SAO PAULO—Floods and mudslides from months of heavy rains in northern Brazil have driven more than 186,000 from their homes, killed at least 19 people and cut off ship routes from a huge Amazon tree, officials said on Tuesday.

Television footage showed the rooftops of houses poking out of inundated towns and people using boats to move around in their cities. Mudslides swamped homes and forced residents to move in with relatives and pack into emergency shelters.

Globo TV's G1 website reported on Tuesday night that three more people died in a mudslide in Bahia state, south of the main zone of devastation, but authorities did not immediately confirm the deaths.

At least seven states, most in the Amazon region, have been affected by the rains, which have battered the region for several months, regional civil defense departments said. Worst hit is the state of Maranhao along the Atlantic coast and south of the mouth of the Amazon River. AP

IN THIS ISSUE

- **2009 budget gap** seen to hit P266B /B3
- **Neda says job loss threat** already on the wane /B6

BUSINESS

RP, Asia face prolonged export crisis

CURRENCIES



Property issues lift stocks

IMF urges gov'ts to boost local consumption

THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REST OF ASIA MAY reel longer than expected from anemic exports as demand from the United States and other advanced economies may not immediately respond to pump-priming initiatives, the International Monetary Fund said.

Globe sees new revenue stream from hybrid service

By Doris C. Dumlao

Wireless and landline in one phone

[illegible]

RCBC net profit rises to ₱780M

[illegible]

SM group hits 100-store mark

[illegible]

Property issues lift stocks

[illegible]

Disclosures

[illegible]

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Currencies

[illegible]

'09 budget gap seen to hit ₱266B

Fitch says economy may grow by only 0.1%

Meralco-Cavite gov't deal to curb pilferage

Snap bags 5 supply deals

RP rice imports may hit 2M tons this year

Basic in stink

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

Asia faces weak recovery from slowdown, IMF says

Bernanke sees growth in '09

[illegible]

'09 growth target pegged at 1.3%

[illegible]

RP, Asia face . . .

[illegible]

BUSINESS

Neda says job loss threat already on the wane

But Microsoft still out to reduce jobs in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

Layoff in manufacturing sector said to have reached its peak

By Michelle V. Remo



SABAYANG PAGTATANIM

Cut in gov't royalties seen to lower power rates

By Amy R. Remo

BIR sees rise in tax delinquency among corporate taxpayers

TVIRD ships copper worth $3.2M to China

DOE to award new dev't contracts

Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Food

Miriam Santiago asks where the best Wagyu is



MELO'S Mother's Day Tenderloin

I BEG YOU TO SEND ME A LIST OF YOUR recommended dining places in Metro Manila. If you could, I hope you could specify which ones serve good Japanese Wagyu steaks. I would also like to know if you have your own restaurant. Thank you very much.

Your friend and admirer,
Miriam Defensor-Santiago

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras

It is a privilege to be read by you, Madame Senator.

I no longer have a restaurant. The last was at Shangri-La many moons ago, where, I recall, you were once our guest.

On places to enjoy Wagyu (a term referring to all Japanese beef cattle, from "Wa," meaning "Japanese/Japanese-style," and "Gyu," meaning "cattle"), I indulge myself only in two places. I haven't done the Wagyu rounds since

DINING OUT

Gifts come with Mother's Day menus



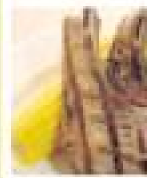
Dimsum specials



Banquet luncheon



New dishes at Bagoong



Family meal



Free at Shakey's



Steak delight

Special menu at Prince Albert





Roast duck platter



Light meals for moms



Fish dish for moms



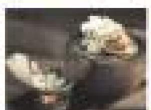
Crossover Brunch



From squid 'sisig' to 'pla-pla' fillet



Sunday brunch



Cantonese specials



Mamma Mia at Bizu

Miriam Santiago asks where the best Wagyu is

Tsukiji's Wagyu Ohmi Beef

Tokujyou-Karubi at Umemishiya

Uma's Shabu-Shabu

145's Manhattan

Wagyu Ox Tongue

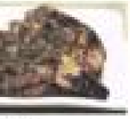
Tivoli at Mandarin

Carpaccio Ristorante Italiano

Fire Angus Steakhouse

Pinoy Wagyu Burgers at Malcolm's

Melo's



Club





Oyster Rockefeller

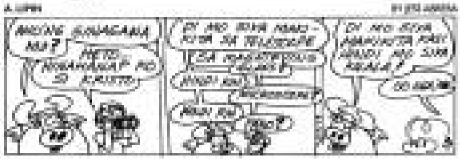


Melo's celebrates Mother's Day with a line-up of favorites—Oyster Rockefeller, baked to a golden brown ... with creamy hollandaise sauce and topped with bacon, mozzarella and parmesan cheese; Buffalo Wings served with tangy blue cheese and cocktail sauce; Waldorf Salad served with juicy duck breast, walnuts, apples, raisins and Melo's secret mayonnaise dressing; and Wagyu, also known as Kobe beef. Melo's is the only restaurant where you can choose from a variety of Wagyu cuts, namely, Ribeye (Grade 4), Tenderloin (Grade 8), Striploin (Grade 8), Ribeye 8 oz (Grade 8), "Cowboy" Ribeye with Bone 24 oz (Grade 8), Porterhouse 22-24 oz (Grade 6) and T-Bone 22-24 oz (Grade 5). As an added treat, Melo's is giving out chocolates from Sweet Bella. Among Melo's desserts are the chocolate, strawberry cheesecake and the Midnight Daze. Melo's branches are at 22 Jupiter St., Bel-air, Makati; 58 Roces Ave., QC; and 41 Prescott, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN



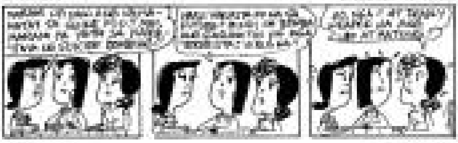
PUGAD BABOY — BY PM. JUNIOR



DICK TRACY



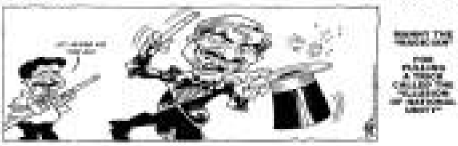
LOVEKNOTS



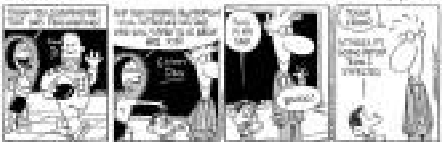
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY



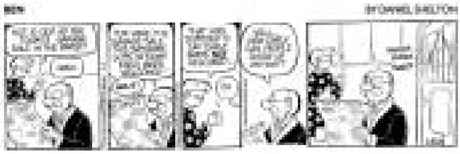
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

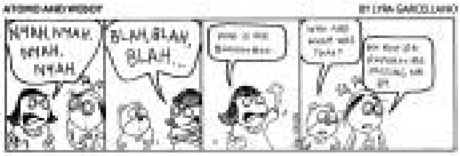


TULDOK



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



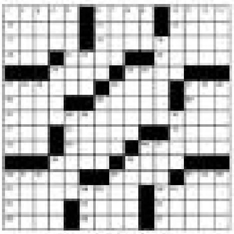


KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

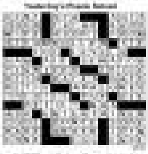


HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved



CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

8			2	7			1	
								5
			1	5		4		
2		7			3			
3		9				5		2
			4			9		8
		5		8	9			
7								
	1			4	5			7

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	7	4	3	6	5	2	1
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	9	6
6	4	1	9	5	2	7	3	8
9	1	2	5	6	7	3	8	4
3	7	4	1	8	9	6	5	2
5	8	6	2	4	3	1	7	9
7	2	3	6	1	8	9	4	5
4	6	8	3	9	5	2	1	7
1	5	9	7	2	4	8	6	3

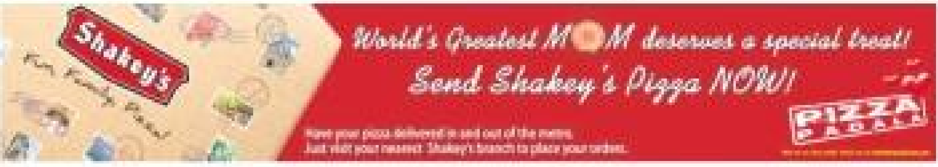
Editor Ramón R. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

'Twilight' vs 'Slumdog'

NEW YORK—It's "Twilight" versus "Slumdog Millionaire" at this year's MTV Movie Awards. Both popular movies were nominated for Best Film. "Slumdog" star Dev Patel and "Twilight" vampire Robert Pattinson are nominated for the Male Breakthrough Performance award. AP

CHEER FACTOR



Another cockfight movie

By Marinel R. Cruz

(Editor's note: This is another movie on local cockfighting, "Sabungero"—one story, all right, and now the very slight difference in the title.)

ACTOR JOEL TORRE PLAYS the lead in the indie movie "Sabungero." According to JC Bernardo, producer, and a cockfight aficionado, the film can count on the support of some six million registered sabungeros.

Directed by first-time filmmakers Miguel Kaimo and Bong Delgado, "Sabungero" will be shown in the week-long 2009 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, which starts July 17. Later in the year, Bernardo said, it will be screened commercially.

He told Inquirer, "I am confident that this movie will fare well at the box-office even if it's not mainstream. [illegible]"

The film, written by [illegible], shows the struggles of a man who loses everything to gambling and to picking up the pieces. [illegible]

[illegible]


JOEL Torre in the gambler in Bernardo's cockfight film

TAKE FIVE

[illegible]

E-mail: [illegible]

RP 'sabong' goes to Cannes festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Cebu accountant studies filmmaking in New York, ends up in French competition

IT WAS AN AUSPICIOUS e-mail. Returning from Easter Vigil Mass, New York-based Filipino filmmaker Anna V. Perez checked her inbox and found a message that made her heart skip.

"I saw these words in big letters: 'See you in Cannes and welcome to the Short Film Corner,'" she told Inquirer in an e-mail interview.

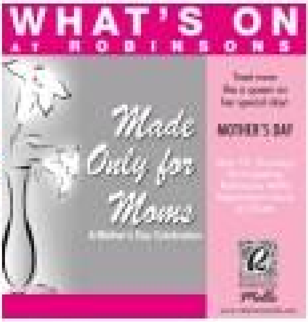
It was surprising, she said, especially since her short film, "Sabungero," took a circuitous route to the premiere world fest.

Before she could shoot this dream project, many doors were closed for Perez. [illegible]

Perez, an accountant by profession, [illegible]

[illegible]







Fuss-free fat busters

Marie France For Men gives you ways to fight the fat without any hassle





The **Physique Inch-Loss Treatment** is the key to toned abs. It also builds, tones, and strengthens muscles in the back and flanks, thus taking care of unwanted flabby and sagging areas. A single 15-minute session saves you from the hassle of doing 220 sit-ups while still achieving the same results. You just relax, lie down comfortably and let it happen.

Here's a fact: slaving away at the gym alone can't guarantee you a flatter tummy. The **Electro-Lipolysis Machine Treatment** is a safe, non-surgical treatment that gets rid of that bulging belly effectively. With no recovery period needed, a trimmer waist would be yours in no time.



No time for strenuous exercise? Then this one's for you. The Swiss-developed **Fat Mobilisation System Treatment** makes use of wraps that speed up the body's metabolism even while at rest. In just 20 minutes, burn up to 2000 calories and still continue burning even more 24-48 hours after a session.



This way to a fitter lifestyle starts here. Consultation is FREE of charge. Call FOR MEN at 813-7808.



Assunta shines in MMK showcase

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

> This recent episode was a refreshing, rare treat

'Salamat Dok' marks 5th year

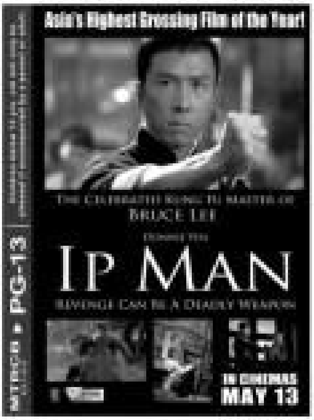
'Obsessed'

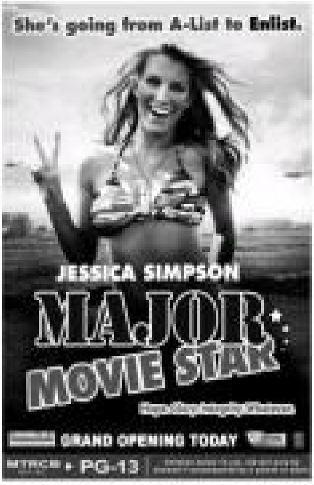


SCENE from "Bakasyon," which tackles a "cultural phenomenon"

RP 'sabong' . . .

From page B1







CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
3 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
4 AMUSEMENT
5 MAJOR MOVIE STAR
6 MAJOR MOVIE STAR
7 17 AGAIN
8 DED NA SI LOLO
9 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT / FURSONA
10 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE

ERMITA

1 MAJOR MOVIE STAR
2 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
3 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
4 AMUSEMENT
5 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
6 FAST AND FURIOUS 4
7 17 AGAIN

METRO EAST

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 FAST & FURIOUS 2
3 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
4 AMUSEMENT
5 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
6 17 AGAIN
7 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
8 DED NA SI LOLO

NOVALICHES

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
3 AMUSEMENT
4 DED NA SI LOLO

PIONEER

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 17 AGAIN
3 GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
4 AMUSEMENT



STA. ROSA

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 FRIDAY THE 13TH
3 FAST AND FURIOUS 4
4 CRANK 2

LIPA

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 FAST AND FURIOUS 4
3 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
4 T2 / SUPER TYPHOON

DASMARIÑAS

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 THE UNBORN
3 PUSH
4 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

IMUS

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 FAST AND FURIOUS 4
3 PUSH
4 THE UNBORN

ANGELES

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 THE SECRET OF MOONACRE
3 WOLFHOUND
4 FAST AND FURIOUS 4

STARMILLS

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 SUPER TYPHOON
3 CRANK 2
4 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
5 FAST & FURIOUS 4
6 T2

BACOLOD

1 CRANK 2
2 THEY WAIT
3 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
4 FAST & FURIOUS 4
5 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
6 WOLFHOUND

ILOILO

1 X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
2 THEY WAIT
3 SUPER TYPHOON
4 THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT
5 CRANK 2
6 FAST & FURIOUS 4



History, Discovery channels now in HD





By Oliver H. Fuhrmann

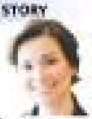
'Love Life, Love Q'

Mother's Day special



The 'Inspired' eating tour

BACK STORY



Lea Salonga

'A Whole New World'

Birthday dinner

Terra Vista

Now, that burger